

Amendments to the Claims

A complete list of pending claims follows, with indicated amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for installing hardware cards components in an installation slot in a motherboard of locations in a computer system, wherein the computer system includes a base architecture, comprising:

compiling a list of the hardware cards components;

assigning an installation slot location for each hardware card component of the computer system;

evaluating each hardware card component of the computer system to determine if the hardware card component is compatible with respect to the other hardware cards components of the computer system;

evaluating the compatibility of each hardware card component of the computer system with respect to the a base architecture of the computer system;

displaying in graphical form the assigned installation slots locations of the hardware cards components of the computer system following a successful evaluation of the compatibility of the hardware cards components with respect to (a) the other hardware cards components of the computer system and (b) the base architecture of the computer system; and

installing the hardware cards components according to the assigned installation slots locations.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of evaluating the compatibility of each hardware card component of the computcr system with respect to the base

architecture of the computer system further comprises the step of evaluating the compatibility of the installation slot location with respect to a selected hardware card component.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the list of hardware cards components includes custom hardware cards components selected for installation by a customer of the computer system.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of compiling a list of hardware cards components comprises the step of generating an architecture resource file that includes an identification of the hardware cards components and base architecture of the computer system.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying instructions identifying incompatible hardware cards components.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of compiling a list of hardware cards components comprises the step of receiving a customer order and generating a list of hardware cards components from the customer order.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of assigning an identification number to the computer system.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the identification number is a serial number.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the identification number identifies assembled hardware cards components.

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) A method for assigning installation slots locations for hardware cards components in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

receiving a list of hardware cards components;

evaluating whether each hardware card component is compatible with every other hardware card;

selecting an installation slot location for each hardware card component in the computer system; and

displaying a graphical representation of the installation slots locations of the hardware cards components of the computer system.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the hardware cards components include custom hardware cards components selected for installation by a customer of the computer system.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of evaluating the compatibility of each hardware card component includes the step of evaluating the compatibility of each card component with respect to other hardware cards components of the computer system and a base architecture of the computer system.

15-20. Cancelled.